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BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1948

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.,

(Medical Officer of Health)

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.,

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HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman – – – – COUNCILLOR DR. R. F. LURRING

Vice-Chairman – – – – COUNCILLOR D. KITELEY

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
(Councillor J. E. Talbot).

THE DEPUTY MAYOR
(Alderman A. E. Meredith).

Alderman	MISS E. C. ADDENBROOKE,	Councillor	F. BROADBENT
Councillor	M. K. JENNS	„	A. H. DUDLEY
„	T. BRINTON	„	D. SAMUEL
„	A. C. ROWLEY	„	H. G. PARKER
„	G. WASE.		

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE BOROUGH

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

COLIN STARKIE, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., B.Sc.

PUBLIC ANALYST :

M. M. LOVE, F.R.I.C.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND FOOD AND DRUGS INSPECTOR :

G. A. NORTH, M.B.E., M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

SANITARY INSPECTOR :

J. B. HINTON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.
(Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector).

HEALTH VISITORS :

Miss E. E. MELLOR, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.San.I.
Miss A. W. GAFFNEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., C.R.San.I.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS FOR 1948 and 1947

	1948	1947
Area of district in Acres	4694	4694
Population at Census, 1931	28917	28917
Estimated Population (mid-year) for Birth Rate and Death Rate	36790	36650
No. of Inhabited Houses, estimated ..	10500	10286
No. of Persons per House	3.50	3.56
Rateable Value	£193196	£195085
Sum Represented by Penny Rate ..	£752	£771
Number of Marriages	469	494
Number of Live Births	730	800
Nett Birth Rate	19.83	21.83
Birth Rate for England and Wales (Live Births)	17.9	20.5
Number of Illegitimate Births	45	53
Number of Deaths	383	453
Nett Death Rate	10.41	12.36
Death Rate for England and Wales ..	10.8	12.00
No. of Deaths under one year of age ..	20	44
Of these there were Illegitimate ..	1	5
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Births ..	27.3	55.00
Infantile Mortality for England and Wales	34.00	41.00
Total Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil	4
No. of Deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis	18	19
No. of Deaths from Cancer	66	70
No. of Deaths from Influenza	Nil	1
No. of Deaths from Measles	Nil	1
No. of Deaths from Whooping Cough ..	Nil	1
Rainfall in inches	27.62	23.41

Year	Births	Deaths	Births over Deaths increase
1942	670	384	286
1943	681	430	251
1944	730	418	312
1945	715	424	291
1946	749	396	353
1947	800	453	347
1948	730	383	347

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

TOWN HALL,

KIDDERMINSTER,

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

When the National Health Service Act came into force on 5th July, 1948, the Borough Council ceased to be the administering authority for Maternity and Child Welfare, and prevention of infectious fevers. However, to provide for the continuity of important vital statistics this report includes Maternity and Child Welfare and Infectious Disease figures for the whole year and follows the same lines as the report for 1947.

The Birth Rate (Live and Stillbirths) 20.30, is lower than that of 1947 (22.51) which was the highest for twenty-seven years. The natural increase of births over deaths was 247. Of the 748 live and stillbirths in 1948, 47 were illegitimate.

The Infant Mortality Rate, i.e. the number of babies which die in the first year of life per thousand born alive, was 27.30, which is the lowest recorded for Kidderminster and compares favourably with the Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales of 34.00. A note on Infant Mortality is made in a later section of this report.

The Death Rate of 10.41 is similar to that of the country as a whole, 10.80. Of the Notifiable Diseases, Tuberculosis caused the death of 18 persons, Pneumonia caused 11 deaths, Syphilis was responsible for 5 deaths and one person died from Meningitis.

VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1948.

Total Births (Live and Still)	..	..	..	..	748
Birth Rate	..	..	..	..	20.30
Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Live and Still)	..				18.32
Total Live Births	..	..	..	..	730
Birth Rate (Live)	..	..	..	..	19.83
Birth Rate (England and Wales) (Live)	..	..	..		17.9

LIVE BIRTHS :

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>
Legitimate	685	373	312
Illegitimate	45	24	21

STILL BIRTHS :

		Total	..	..	..	18
Legitimate	16	9	7			
Illegitimate	2	2	Nil.			

Deaths	383	Death Rate	..	10.41
Death Rate (England and Wales) 1948	..	..	..	10.80
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions				47.02
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth		from sepsis	..	Nil.
		from other causes		Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Total Births)	..			Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	..	..		1.02

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Legitimate	..	19	Illegitimate	..	1	Total	20
Deaths of Infants under one year, per 1,000 births	..						27.3
„ „ „ „ (England and Wales, 1948)							34.00
Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.2
Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	..	..	..	..	..	..	22.22
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	..	..	..	..			66
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	..	..	..				Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)				..	..		Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	..			..	..		Nil.

The ages at which deaths have taken place during 1948 are as follows:—

Under 1 year	20
Between 1 and 2 years	1
Between 2 and 5 years	7
Between 5 and 15 years	2
Between 15 and 25 years	7
Between 25 and 45 years	21
Between 45 and 65 years	94
65 years and upwards	231
	383

The following table shows the ages at which the deaths of Infants under 1 year of age occurred :

Under 1 Week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year
11	Nil	2	1	14	2	1	1	2	20

The causes of Infant deaths were as follows—

Prematurity	9	Intestinal Obstruction	1
Pneumonia	3	Congenital Heart Disease	2
Atelectasis	1	Jaundice	1
Cardiac Failure	1	Convulsions	1
		Marasmus	1

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM EACH DISEASE AND SEX

Cause of Death.	Male	Female
1.—Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ..	—	—
2.—Cerebro-spinal fever	1	—
3.—Scarlet fever	—	—
4.—Whooping Cough	—	—
5.—Diphtheria	—	—
6.—Tuberculosis of respiratory system ..	7	6
7.—Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	3
8.—Syphilitic Diseases	3	2
9.—Influenza	—	—
10.—Measles	—	—
11.—Acute polio-myelitis	—	—
12.—Acute Inf. encephalitis	—	—
13.—Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M) } uterus (F) }	2	6
14.—Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	10	3
15.—Cancer of breast	—	7
16.—Cancer of all other sites	19	19
17.—Diabetes	2	3
18.—Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	23	29
19.—Heart Disease	30	64
20.—Other diseases of Circulatory system	9	8
21.—Bronchitis	8	14
22.—Pneumonia	6	5
23.—Other Respiratory diseases	6	3
24.—Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ..	1	3
25.—Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—
26.—Appendicitis	—	—
27.—Other digestive diseases	4	—
28.—Nephritis	8	4
29.—Puerperal and post abort. sepsis ..	—	—
30.—Other maternal causes	—	—
31.—Premature birth	7	3
32.—Congenital malformations, birth injuries infant diseases	4	2
33.—Suicide	4	1
34.—Road traffic accidents... ..	3	—
35.—Other violent causes	5	4
36.—All other causes	16	14
	180	203

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

(I). The Public Health Officers of the Authority are listed on the first page of this Report for convenient reference.

(II). (a) **Laboratory Facilities.**

1. *Laboratory Service.*

The standing arrangements with the County Analyst have remained in force.

The Medical Practitioners of the Borough have also availed themselves of the laboratory at the General Hospital. Specimens for examination have been referred through an Honorary Physician in the Out-Patients Dept. The cost of this service was borne either through a contributory scheme or by the patient direct until July 5th, when the National Health Service Act came into force.

2. *Ambulance Facilities.* Since 1st April, 1947, the Ambulance Service has been provided by the Worcester County Council. Non-infectious cases and accident cases have been provided for.

3. *Nursing in the Home.*

The Kidderminster Nursing Association, a voluntary organisation, has provided District Nurses as well as District Midwives in the Borough.

The Home and Domestic Help Scheme commenced in November, 1947, continued to function under the supervision of the Public Health Department, until taken over by the Worcestershire County Council, under authority of the National Health Service Act, July 5th, 1948.

(b) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Name	Situation and Time of Session.	Average Attendances	Provided by
Maternity & Child Welfare Centres	(1) Prospect Lane, Thursday, 2—4 p.m.	— 46	Up to July 5th Local Authority
	(2) Mill Street Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	47	
	(3) St. Oswald's Monday, 2—4 p.m.	39	
	(4) Sutton Park Monday, 2—4 p.m.	63	
	(5) Franche Clinic Tuesday, 2—4 p.m.	13	
Tuberculosis	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Thursday, 2—4 p.m. and at 5.15 p.m.	20 per week	County Council
Venereal	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Males Mon. 2.15 p.m. Females Thurs. 5 p.m.	26 per week	County Council
Ante-Natal	Stanmore Nurses' Home, Chester Rd. North Friday 2—4 p.m.	17 per session	Local Authority
Consultative Ante Natal Clinic	Kidderminster Gen. Hospital Weekly at 11 a.m. Wednesday		After July 5th by County

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There have been 730 live births in the Borough during the year.

With only two Health Visitors there has been some difficulty in making all the required visits to see these babies.

The work of the Health Visitors is summarised in the Table below :—

Visits to babies :	First	..	..	..	..	706
	Subsequent	..	..	..	..	3,589
Visits to Children over 1 year	..	..	..	..	..	6,698
Special cases	..	..	..	..	..	988
Infant Life Protection Visits	..	..	..	..	..	35
Diphtheria Immunisations—completed	..	..	..	..	..	774

Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics.

Prospect Lane	..	..	..	..	..	2,244
St. John's, Mill Street	..	..	..	..	..	2,273
St. Oswald's	..	..	..	..	..	1,884
Sutton Park	..	..	..	..	..	3,020
Franche	..	..	..	..	..	649
Ante Natal (37 Sessions)	..	..	..	..	..	813
Sewing Class	..	..	..	..	..	496

Total attendances of children at all the centres from 1st January to 5th July=4,933.

Total attendances from 5th July to 31st December=5,137.

Up to the end of 1948 the National Health Service Act had not caused any appreciable alteration in the number of people using the child welfare centres.

Health Talks have been given on :—

Advantage of Breast Feeding.

Summer Diarrhoea.

Convulsions.

Croup.

Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Ailments.

Infant Mortality.

There were 20 babies died before they reached 1 year of age.

14 babies died in the first 4 weeks of life.

6 died after the first 4 weeks, but before they were a year old.

The cause of death has already been shown on another page, but it is enlightening to group these cases.

20 *Deaths* :—

- 9 due to Prematurity.
- 3 due to Infections.
- 1 occurred in illegitimate babies.
- 5 cases lived in bad property.
- 14 died under 4 weeks old.

(e) **Hospitals** :

Since 5th July, the Hospitals and Maternity Home and other Institutions have been administered by the Regional Hospital Board, with the exception of Greenhill Hostel which is still a voluntary Institution.

(1) NORTH WORCESTERSHIRE JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL—For reception of infectious diseases, chiefly diphtheria and scarlet fever ; typhoid fever, complicated measles and whooping cough are also admitted.

(2) BLAKEBROOK COUNTY HOSPITAL—

(Administered by Worcestershire County Council from April, 1947).

No. of beds (including Children's Beds)	..	..	194
Maternity Beds	..	..	13
Maternity Cots	..	..	13
No. of Maternity Cases in 1948 was 134.			

(3) KIDDERMINSTER AND DISTRICT GENERAL HOSPITAL—(Voluntary Hospital—Normal accommodation 145 beds.) There is an X-Ray Department, Massage and Sunlight Treatment and Clinics for Dentistry, Orthopaedics, Ophthalmology, Gynaecology, Ear, Throat and Nose, Venereal Diseases and a Fracture Clinic. A Clinic for Diseases of the Skin has been added, and the activities of the Rehabilitation Centre extended.

Shortage of Nursing Staff has hampered the full use of beds during 1948.

Greenhill Hostel.

Greenhill Hostel has ceased to take in mothers for confinements, but accommodates up to 16 expectant or nursing unmarried mothers, and up to 25 babies.

Municipal Maternity Home.

The following table summarises the work of the Municipal Maternity Home :—

Number of Maternity Beds	16
Number of patients admitted	252
Number of patients unable to be admitted due to beds being occupied	96
Average duration of stay of patients—12 days.	
Number of Births : Males	139
Females	107
Number of stillbirths Males	4
Females	2
Number of cases delivered by midwives	249
" " " " " " Doctors	7
Number of cases in which Medical aid was called for	30
Number of cases transferred to hospital	1 mother and child.
Number of maternal deaths	nil
Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth	4

Staff.

- 3 full time midwives.
- 2 part-time midwives.
- 1 full-time assistant nurse.
- 1 part-time enrolled assistant nurse.
- 4 full-time non-resident domestics.
- 3 part-time " " "
- 1 Ward orderly.

There are two significant factors which should be noted, viz. :—

- (a) 96 mothers have applied and been unable to obtain admission to the home because the wards were full.
- (b) There was great difficulty in obtaining sufficient staff to keep the home going until the " Croft " was occupied but since then there has been adequate staff.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—The sources of water as detailed in the Report for 1933 are still in use and constitute the main supply, with an additional supply from the Birmingham Elan Aqueduct, the minimum agreed supply to be 8,000,000 galls. per annum. To connect up the latter three miles of 9 in. main were laid to our service reservoir, with four direct connections along its route into the town distribution.

The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year. Regular bacteriological examination of the raw water is made fortnightly (weekly in the hot months). Chlorination is permanently carried out, and its efficacy checked by bacteriological examination of tap samples from various points in the town. The results of examination has always shown the water to be fit for use.

As the local well-water supply is hard (average total hardness about 21) and the subsidiary Elan supply is specially treated at its source, the question of plumbo-solvency does not arise.

TABLE OF ANALYSIS OF SAMPLES DURING 1948.

(Full chemical analysis here).

Samples taken from Borough Main Wells	..	79
Samples taken from taps at various premises	..	72
Samples taken from Reservoir		23
Samples taken from Private Wells		4
Sample taken from swimming baths		1
		179

Housing.

Number of houses built by Private Enterprise		Nil.
Number of Prefabricated Houses (temporary, etc)	..	Nil.
Number of Permanent Houses built by Local Authority		111

There is a waiting list of about 1,500 applicants for Corporation houses. One hundred and eleven have been built in the Borough during the year 1948.

The actual increase in population, not considering immigration, was 347 in 1948. Houses condemned as unfit must still be used because there is no alternative accommodation for their inhabitants.

Very many houses in the Borough have no internal water supply.

Obviously the outstanding and very urgent need is more, many more new houses as quickly as possible.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1948.

No case of Typhoid or Para-Typhoid occurred in 1948.

Measles.

116 cases were notified, 1 case was admitted to hospital.

Very little was done to modify attacks of measles in close contact cases. Perhaps in future, prophylactic treatment will save many contacts from developing into severe cases.

Whooping Cough. 32 cases.

It is hoped that more children will be immunised against Whooping Cough in the near future.

Scarlet Fever. 17 cases—no deaths.

Scarlet fever has been mild in type. 14 cases sent into hospital were admitted chiefly on account of environmental factors and not essentially because the patient required hospital treatment.

Acute Poliomyelitis. 4 cases.

These cases all recovered but with some degree of residual paralysis. There was no association shown between the 4 cases, and no mode of spread was ascertained.

Diphtheria. No cases of Diphtheria occurred.

INOCULATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Fortnightly sessions were held throughout 1948, at Prospect Lane Clinic, and visits made to some of the Infant Schools. The numbers inoculated were :—under 5 years, 529 ; over 5 years, 245 ; Total 774.

Approx. 60% of the children under 14 have been immunised.

Since the first large-scale inoculation was carried out in 1937, there have been only two deaths from Diphtheria, both in uninoculated children. The following table is noteworthy :—

Table showing Incidence and Mortality of Diphtheria.

Year.	Total Cases.	Deaths.	Mortality rate.	Immunised Children.	
				Cases.	Deaths.
1935	74	13	17.5	—	—
1936	56	5	8.9	1	—
1937	35	1	2.8	—	—
1938	41	3	6.3	—	—
1939	6	—	—	—	—
1940	7	—	—	*2	—
1941	8	—	—	—	—
1942	9	—	—	—	—
1943	9	—	—	—	—
1944	8	—	—	—	—
1945	13	1	—	—	—
1946	11	1	9.0	—	—
1947	2	—	—	—	—
1948	—	—	—	—	—
	279	24	—	3	—

*Two "carriers," at the Public Assistance Hospital, evacuated from Birmingham after a blitz.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	17	14	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	6	2	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	17	2	11
Anthrax	Nil	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	8	2	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Polio-encephalitis ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Polio-myelitis ..	4	4	Nil
Malaria	Nil	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	32	1	Nil
Measles	116	1	Nil
Meningitis	1	1	Nil

**Analysis of Total Notified Infectious Cases (other than
Tuberculosis) during the year 1948.**

DISEASES.

Age Groups			Whooping Cough	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Erysipelas	Polio-Myelitis	Meningitis
Under 1 year	..	..	2	9	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
1—2 years	..	..	6	13	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
2—3 years	..	..	8	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4 years	..	..	2	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5 years	..	..	4	18	5	—	—	—	—	1	—
5—10 years	..	..	9	34	7	—	—	—	—	2	—
10—15 years	..	..	—	51	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	..	..	1	3	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	..	..	—	1	—	2	3	—	—	—	1
35—45 years	..	..	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—
45—65 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	5	—	4	—	—
65 and over	..	..	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	—	—
TOTAL CASES			32	116	17	6	17	2	8	4	1

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Two cases were notified during 1948. There was complete recovery in both cases.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were 27 new cases of Tuberculosis notified in 1948 :—24 Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 3 Non-Pulmonary.

These figures are not large, but since Tuberculosis is in the category of Preventable diseases, they are too large.

The following table shows the number of notified cases and deaths during the last five years :—

Year	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Death-rate (all forms) per 1,000 living
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
1944	24	14	4	5	.53
1945	28	22	4	4	.75
1946	24	22	5	1	.64
1947	26	15	2	4	.52
1948	24	15	3	3	.48

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

Age Periods			NEW CASES				DEATHS			
			<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	..	..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
5 to 10 years	..	..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	..	..	4	2	—	1	—	—	—	2
20 to 25 years	..	..	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 years	..	..	1	4	—	—	2	2	—	—
35 to 45 years	..	..	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 to 55 years	..	..	2	—	1	—	3	1	1	—
55 to 65 years	..	..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	..	..	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
TOTALS	..	..	12	12	1	2	8	7	1	2

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

Sterilisation of blankets was carried out at the Blakebrook County Hospital.

Disinfestation and disinfection was undertaken by the Health Department, on account of the following :—

Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	6 cases.
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	12 cases.
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	1 case.
Dirty premises	..	..	..	..	..	3 cases.
Bugs	..	..	..	..	..	50 cases.
Wood beetles	..	..	..	..	..	1 case.
Flies	..	..	..	..	..	1 case.
Lice	..	..	..	..	..	2 cases.
Fleas	..	..	..	..	..	3 cases.

In addition, the slaughterhouse, the British Restaurant, the School Canteen, Butcher's Premises, Clinics and Maternity Home were sprayed with D.D.T. to protect against flies.

Health Congress

The Medical Officer of Health attended the Health Congress, at Harrogate, in May. Many diverse and important health matters were discussed, and a summary of the most important papers was presented to the Health Committee.

Catering Establishments and Flies

The Health Department has tried to eliminate flies from food shops, cafes, hotels and other places where food is handled or exposed. The use of D.D.T. has been demonstrated, and explained to the owner of such establishments.

Food Preparation

There is still much carelessness and ignorance shown in the preparation and handling of food, both in the homes and in public places. It is only by education and demonstration that clean methods of food preparation and serving will come about.

CONCLUSION.

A brief summary of the health of the town shows :—

General health is good.

Epidemics	..	Nil.
Birth Rate	..	High.
Death Rate	..	Low.
Infant Death Rate	..	Lowest Recorded.
Nutrition of babies and Children	..	Good.

What improvements can we strive for in the near future?

Below is a short list of requirements necessary to improve the health of our people.

1. Improved Housing—The urgency of more good houses being provided is indicated by the fact that there were nearly 2,000 applications for the IRI corporation houses built in 1948, and also by the continued necessity for overcrowding in very substandard property.
2. Improved Maternity Service—such as (a) more maternity home beds so that more who apply may be accommodated during their confinement. (b) A Maternity “Flying Squad,” based on a convenient hospital and available for emergencies. (c) A specially trained service for rearing premature babies.
3. Improved Child Welfare—*i.e.* (a) Day Nursery Accommodation. (b) Short term residential nursery accommodation. (c) Convalescent Home for many more sick children, especially after acute illness and surgical operations. (d) More immunisation against infectious disease.
4. More knowledge of and more practice in the clean handling of food both domestically and commercially.

I wish to thank the Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support throughout the year, and also I wish to thank the Staff of the Health Department for their loyal and willing co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

COLIN STARKIE,

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1948.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting my Eighteenth Annual Report on the work accomplished by my Department for the year ended 31st December, 1948.

Meat and Food Inspection.

The duties of Meat Inspection at the Regional Slaughterhouse, Lion Square, have again been rigorously pursued during the year.

Set out below is a synopsis of the work for the year 1948.

No. OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED AND INSPECTED.

	Cattle (exclud'g Cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1,727	998	1,462	7,503	125
Number Inspected	1,727	998	1,462	7,503	125

No. OF WHOLE CARCASES (WITH ORGANS) CONDEMNED.

Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
85	24	65	10

MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFALS CONDEMNED DURING 1948.

							Tons	Cwts.	lbs.
Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	17	15	12
Distomatosis and Cirrhosis	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	4	100
Johnes Disease and Emaciation	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	69
Bruising, Injury and Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	18	39
Parasitic Cysts	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	0	24
Pyogenic Abscesses	..	..	..	..	..	..		18	17
Decomposition (Moribund)	..	..	..	..	..	..		17	58
Dropsy and Emaciation	..	..	..	..	..	..		16	4
Angiomatosis	..	..	..	..	..	..		11	55
Pleurisy	..	..	..	..	..	..		11	15
Septic Metritis and Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	..	..		10	49
Strongylosis	..	..	..	..	..	..		9	8
Septic Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	..		8	41
Bone Taint	..	..	..	..	..	..		6	68
Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	..	..		5	4
Mastitis, acute septic	..	..	..	..	..	..		4	52
Swine Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	59
Jaundice	..	..	..	..	..	..		2	37
Immaturity	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	96
Actinomycosis	..	..	..	..	..	..			90
Pyæmic Polyarthrits	..	..	..	..	..	..			84
Umbilical Pyæmia	..	..	..	..	..	..			59
Parturition	..	..	..	..	..	..			42
Urticaria	..	..	..	..	..	..			30
Total Weight Condemned	..	..	..	..	..	..	36	13	104

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

3338 Tins of Various Foodstuffs.	52 Boxes of Cheese.
254 Jars of Pickles and Jams.	16 lbs. Cheese.
1380 lbs. of Fish.	102 Malt Loaves.
2 cwt. 2 lbs. of Dried Peas.	48 loaves.
7 cwt. Lucerne Meal.	24 lbs. Flour.
3 cwt. Soya Flour.	12 lbs. Semolina.
72 lbs. of Bacon.	50 Small Packets Ice Cream.
44 lbs. Luncheon Meat.	14 lbs. Prunes.
35 lbs. Cake.	2 lbs. Figs.
32 lbs. Black Puddings.	6 lbs. Butter.
56 lbs. Chocolate Crunchies.	11 lbs. Pressed Goose.
12 lbs. Toffees.	2 lbs. Pressed Chicken.
$\frac{1}{2}$ Gallon Synthetic Cream.	4 Packets Benergy.

SUMMARY.

			Tons	cwt.	lbs.
Grand Total Weight (Meat and Foods)	Condemned	..	38	1	110
Grand Total Weight (Meat)	Condemned	..	36	13	104
Grand Total Weight (Tuberculosis)	Condemned	..	17	15	12

SUMMARY OF MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (5 YEARS).

1944 — 1945 — 1946 — 1947 — 1948

The Government scheme for the slaughtering and distribution of meat which commenced to operate in January, 1940, still continues. The centralised premises (Slaughterhouse and Allocation Depot), under the scheme, are situated at Lion Square, Kidderminster, and serve the following districts, Kidderminster Borough, Bewdley Borough, Stourport U.D., Kidderminster R.D., and Tenbury R.D. A close liaison is always maintained between your Officials and the Officials of the Ministry.

NUMBER OF ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED.					AMOUNT OF MEAT CONDEMNED					
Year	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Claves	Weight of Meat and Offal Rejected			Weight Amount Affected with Tuberculosis		
					T.	C.	Q.	T.	C.	Q.
1944	2,886	12,690	145	966	27	8	1	12	16	1
1945	3,246	8,613	489	1,037	38	4	0	18	4	1
1946	4,510	12,231	189	1,433	46	7	2	21	9	2
1947	2,939	7,657	116	1,211	43	1	0	19	4	1
1948	2,725	7,503	125	1,462	36	13	3	17	15	1

REMARKS :

No food is rejected unless there is definite evidence that it is unfit for HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

No food is destroyed but is disposed of to the Waste Product Merchants (contractors to the Ministry of Food) for Animal Foods or Industrial purposes.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.
PUBLIC HEALTH (PRESERVATIVES, ETC., IN FOOD)
REGULATIONS 1925 to 1939.

Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947.

Total Number of Samples taken during the year 1948 .. 127

Milk, 73 (informal). Ice-Cream, 45. Ice Lollies, 3. Sausages, 4. Dressed Crab, 1. Sweetened Lard, 1.

Three samples of milk were reported upon adversely by the Public Analyst. All were informal samples, and showed deficiencies of fat.

One informal sample of Dressed Crab and one informal sample of Sweetened Lard were reported as incorrectly described. In each case the vendors were warned.

One sample was submitted by request from a producer for his information. The Vendors of the other two samples were warned and further samples taken at later dates were genuine. In each case the milk was produced at Farms outside the Borough.

MILK (Special Designations) ORDER 1936.
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

Sample	No. Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	No. did Not Satisfy Phosphatase Test
Designated Milks :				
T.T. (Cert.)	2	2	..	..
T.T.	6	6	..	..
Accredited	16	14	2	..
Pasteurised	24	23	1	1
T.T. Pasteurised	7	7	..	..
Heat Treated	7	6	1	..
Sterilised	7	7	..	..
TOTAL	69	65	4	1

No. of Licences Issued.

T.T. (Cert.) Milk, 1 Distribution.

T.T. Milk (a) Bottling 3. (b) Distribution 3.

T.T. (Pasteurised) Milk (a) Bottling 1. (b) Distribution 1.

Accredited Milk (a) Bottling 1. (b) Distribution 2.

Pasteurising Plants 2. Retail Distributors 3.

Ice Cream.

The operation of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations has resulted in an increased number of samples being taken. It is pleasing to record that of the 45 samples submitted for examination, only eight were low graded (Bacteriologically), 7 in grade 3, and 1 in grade 4. Action was taken by the Department in each case, and repeat samples submitted. Three manufacturers were notified that their Ice-Cream was low in fat.

Common Lodging Houses.

The five registered houses in the Borough are the object of frequent attention and are visited regularly. These houses have accommodation for 105 lodgers.

Bakehouses and Food Premises.

The inspection of premises used for carrying on the trade, business and preparation of food for human consumption, has again been carried out during the year.

Particular attention has been directed to the sanitary and cleanly conditions and although some improvements have been noted, there is still room for considerable improvement with regard to handling and transport of foodstuffs, cleanly conditions and general practices.

Offensive Trades.

The following list of establishments gives those trades which are scheduled in this area as offensive trades :

Fish Friers	..	..	..	..	..	23
Gut Scraper	..	..	..	..	..	1
Tripe Boiler	..	..	..	..	..	3
Hide and Skin Trades	..	..	..	..	..	1

Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915.

Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Under the above enactments we have registered the following :

Retail Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	..	42
Wholesale Traders of Milk	..	..	..	..	20
Residents, Purveyors of Milk	..	..	..	..	28
Residents, Cow-keepers	..	..	..	..	6

(The above figures are exclusive of small shops selling sealed bottled milk only).

We have six cow-keepers in the Borough who use eleven cow-sheds for the housing of approximately 80 cows. Frequent visits are made to the premises.

Disinfestation of Premises, Clothing, etc.

The work of disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority, mainly combating the more common house pests, viz. : bed bugs, fleas, cockroaches, etc.

The method used chiefly is by spraying infested premises, furniture and other fittings with an insecticide containing D.D.T. Where possible, such fittings as picture rails, skirting boards, architraves and wallpapers are removed, so as to effectually facilitate the work.

It is still the practice of the Department to supply insecticides to the Public, and to loan sprays.

Number of houses disinfested by Local Authority 63

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	195
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	195
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above, which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in such a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the sub-head above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	116
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	28
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By owners	28
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

Summary of Notices Served.

Preliminary notices served (for housing defects)	116
Intimation letters sent (<i>re</i> sanitary defects)	56
Statutory notices served (for housing defects)	28
Reminder Notices served (for housing defects)	2

Infectious Diseases.

Notices to School Medical Officer	..	..	..	..	Nil
Notices to Head Teachers	..	..	..	..	15
Notices to Parents	..	..	..	..	12
Certificates granted to children to attend school	..	..			11

PUBLIC CLEANSING (Salvage and Refuse Collection and Disposal).

			£	s.	d.
*The cost of collection and disposal of salvage and refuse for the year 1948 was	..	..	20400	0	0
*The income was	..	..	7960	0	0
The net cost being	..	..	12440	0	0

**Financial Year ended 31st March, 1949.*

SALVAGE.

The total WEIGHT of all Salvaged Materials collected and disposed of during the Twelve Months amounted to 1274 TONS of PAPER, METALS, RAGS, BONES, KITCHEN WASTE, etc., etc., the INCOME from the Materials disposed of being £7,143.

KITCHEN WASTE.

Collected and disposed of for sterilised Pig and Poultry Food.
Weight : 534 tons, 4 cwts., 2 qrs.

LOADS OF SALVAGE.

Collected and taken to Main Salvage Depots, 2287.

RECORD OF SALVAGE FOR THE YEAR, 1948.

Month	Weight of Salvage			Income from Sale £ s. d.
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	
January	114	5	3	583 19 1
February	88	4	0	529 10 11
March	112	13	0	640 8 0
April	114	0	1	640 8 5
May	103	15	1	548 17 11
June	100	1	1	548 9 6
July	86	16	3	506 12 10
August	90	11	0	504 1 2
September	87	8	3	468 6 1
October	120	11	1	717 14 2
November	133	5	2	729 15 2
December	122	4	2	724 18 6
TOTALS	1273	17	1	£7143 1 9

The weights of the salvaged materials have been segregated and are set out below.

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£ s. d.
Waste Paper	467	6	1	3054 16 11
Baled Tins	123	14	0	236 10 7
Heavy Scrap	8	7	1	22 19 11
Light Scrap	25	1	2	45 2 5
Textiles	35	18	1	501 17 4
Household Bones	6	7	1	36 14 11
Cullet (Broken Glass)	60	3	3	135 10 2
Non-Ferrous Metals		14	2	14 15 0
Rubber	1	0	1	1 10 4
Bottles and Jars	10	19	3	134 15 0
Kitchen Waste	534	4	2	2958 9 2
TOTALS	1273	17	1	£7143 1 9

COLLECTION OF DOMESTIC AND TRADE REFUSE

Total No. of loads of Refuse removed (all vehicles)	5309
Dry Ashpits emptied	2
Closet Pans emptied	4299
Privies and Middens emptied	3
Loads of Night Soil removed	53

Disposal of Household Ashes.

Tipped at Broadwaters	1640
Tipped at Puxton	2097
Tipped at Hoobrook	1559
Tipped at Worcester Road	13
Total	5309

Canal Boat Inspection.

During the year frequent visits have been made to the Canal and Wharves, and inspections made in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936 (Part X) Canal Boats, and the Canal Boat Regulations, 1878.

The boats are not registered as dwellings in accordance with Section 250 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the Canal Boat Regulations of 1878. (No new regulations have yet been issued as empowered by Section 251 of the Public Health Act, 1936).

The position would be clarified if a legal definition of a dwelling was in evidence and I trust that the expression dwelling will be defined in the new regulations.

The following figures are a synopsis of the year's work :—

Total boats on register in the Borough	..	..	4
Number of boats believed to be in use or available			4
Number of inspections	..	..	2

RAINFALL.

YEARS 1947 AND 1948.							
Monthly		Inches		RAINFALL FOR PAST TEN YEARS			
		1948	1947	Years			Inches
January	..	4.12	1.72	1939	..	..	28.95
February	..	1.44	1.66	1940	..	..	28.19
March	..	1.24	5.41	1941	..	..	26.44
April	..	1.20	2.35	1942	..	..	22.01
May	..	2.52	1.75	1943	..	..	23.43
June	..	1.87	1.43	1944	..	..	24.50
July	..	1.00	2.26	1945	..	..	20.45
August	..	3.76	1.42	1946	..	..	31.80
September	..	2.28	1.05	1947	..	..	23.41
October	..	2.15	.29	1948	..	..	27.62
November	..	1.58	1.41				
December	..	4.46	2.66				
Total	..	27.62	23.41	Average	..	..	25.68

RODENT CONTROL

The second complete year of fully organised Rodent Control now completed in this Borough, has maintained the high standard set by the first year 1947.

Corporation Tips have been treated three times during the year, the infestation level has been very low for each treatment. Sewers were treated twice and here again the infestation level was observed to be low.

Excellent co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Division) has been enjoyed during the year.

Below are some statistics which summarise briefly the work of the Rodent Operative during 1948.

RODENT CONTROL OPERATIONAL STATISTICS FOR 1948.

Premises Surveyed and Treated.	Total No. Treated	Method.	Notes.
Corporation Properties, including Tips	18	Zinc Phosphide or Arsenic	These premises receive treatment every four months.
Corporation Sewers—Manholes	440	Ditto.	Treated twice in the year.
Individual Business Premises on Contract.	15	Ditto.	Including 5 of the largest factories and 6 premises for Mice.
Block Control—Consisting of an average of 50 houses and business premises per block.	57	Ditto.	Approx. 250 bodies picked up. 47 Houses treated for mice.

Total number of actual bodies picked up during the year :—1520.

Total number estimated killed during the year :—4640.

MORTUARY.

During the year 26 bodies were received into the Public Mortuary.

CONCLUSION.

The year has been an extremely busy one, and the good progress of the Department has been well maintained.

I wish to express my indebtedness to Mr. J. B. Hinton and the staff for their continued co-operation and loyal service.

I am Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

G. A. NORTH,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

